

# Farm Animal Welfare Network<sup>●</sup> - fighting cruelty

## Incorporating Chickens' Lib

Patrons:

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[www.fawn.me.uk](http://www.fawn.me.uk)

The food and Drug Administration  
Division of Dockets Management  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Rm. 1061  
Rockville  
MD 20852  
USA

Dear Sirs,

**Docket numbers: 1996P-0418, 1997P-0197, 1998P-0203, 2000N-0504**

We note that the FDA is currently welcoming comments about the practice of force molting laying hens.

UK legislation strictly forbids the withholding of water at any time. Feed rations, though of a different composition during a "forced moult", must be supplied daily, in order to satisfy the hens' appetites.

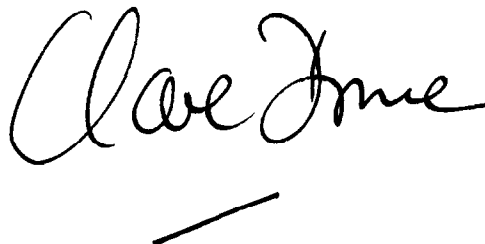
This legislation has been enacted in recognition of the fact that it is cruel to withhold food and water at any time, except when veterinary advice dictates (for example for medical reasons, to prevent suffering). However, we doubt whether denying water to the birds would ever be appropriate.

Some years ago I was deeply shocked to learn of the methods employed in the USA during a "forced molt". The shock was greater, because the source of my information had been an academic, a specialist in the field of poultry welfare, who had been visiting the States.

We would urge the FDA to do all in its power to end this present crude method of force molting, which is as cruel as it is unnecessary. It is clear to us that new legislation is required, to ensure that producers adopt a different attitude to sentient creatures.

Yours faithfully,

Clare Druce  
Director



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